

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200031
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:KHSMITH:SM X23040

APPROVED BY AF/E:GRBEYER

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P 082025Z AUG 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 200031

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) ANTANANARIVO 1483; (B) ANTANANARIVO 1501

1. NASA WAS RESERVED IN THEIR REACTION TO YOUR SUCCESS WITH SOLOFOSON DESCRIBED IN REF A. THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT SENDING ONLY TWO TECHNICIANS SO THE NEWS IN REF B ABOUT THE GDRM'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A THIRD SURVEY TEAM MEMBER EVEN IF HE MUST ACT AS A PHOTOGRAPHER WAS MOST WELCOME. NASA IS WORKING ON THE MAKE-UP OF THE TEAM (IT MAY NOT NECESSARILY BE THE SAME AS PROPOSED BEFORE) AND WE WILL BE BACK TO YOU IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO.

2. BEYER THINKS IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR DESK OFFICER SMITH TO ACCOMPANY THE TEAM. WE ARE UNSURE AT THE MOMENT
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WHETHER WE CAN LOCATE TRAVEL FUNDS AND WE ARE ALSO UNSURE WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS.

3. THE DEPT IS URGING THE TEAM ARRIVE BETWEEN AUGUST 17 -
24. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH AN ARRIVAL WOULD PERMIT THE TEAM TO COMPLETE THE INVENTORY BEFORE YOUR OWN SEPT. 12

DEPARTURE FROM POST.

4. NASA SEEMS TO PREFER WAITING UNTIL AFTER OCT. 20
TO BEGIN THE NEGOTIATIONS DUE TO FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

5. IN ORDER FOR NASA TO GET THE CABLE TRAFFIC QUICKLY,
IT IS NECESSARY TO INDICATE THEM AS AN ACTION ADDRESSEE.
WOULD APPRECIATE, THEREFORE, NASA BEING LISTED AS AN
ACTION ADDRESSEE ON FUTURE CABLES ON THIS SUBJECT. CHRISTOPHER

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